

Thomas Tidwell, Chief U.S Forest Service  
Attn: EMC Administrative Reviews  
1400 Independence Ave. SW, Mailstop 1104  
Washington, DC 20250

March 20, 2014

I am writing you, in good standing, in response to the recently released management plan for the Shoshone National Forest.

Initially, I would like to express my support for the Forest Service decision to remove the parcels considered for oil and gas development, bringing them in line with existing restrictions on adjacent BLM lands.

I am concerned though that mountain bike use will be considered in the Dunoir Special Management Unit, an area created for non-vehicular use that has been recommended for wilderness designation.

Also, in spite of numerous assurances from Supervisor Alexander to continue management of Wood River and Francs Peak area for their wilderness character, these areas have been opened to winter motorized use.

50 acres of the Lean-to Creek drainage, flowing into the East Fork of the Wind River, have been designated for timber harvest. This area, next to secure bear habitat in the Washakie Wilderness, has had no motor use for 60 years.

Finally, 40,000 acres in the drainages of Horse Creek, Wiggins Fork, Bear Creek, and East Fork have been changed from backcountry non-motorized use to summer and winter motorized access. These areas are not only crucial winter range for Bighorn sheep, but also contain critical lynx habitat, secure grizzly bear habitat, and elk calving grounds.

Since the Plan contains no new areas for wilderness designation, it is even more important that it protect the remaining wilderness characteristics of the Forest. Even though the extent of motor activity in these areas will eventually be determined by a subsequent Travel Management Plan, I strongly recommend they be removed from consideration for motorized use.

I hope that these objections will be well received, and will help develop a management plan that reflects and protects the existing wilderness assets of the Shoshone National Forest.

Thank you for your consideration.

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